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United States Department
of Agriculture

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20250

News Releases and other News Material

Number 4393

April 12 - April 16, 1993

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For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, News Division, Office of Public Affairs, Room 406-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call (202) 720-4026.

Release No. 0281.93
Steve Kinsella or Mary Dixon (202) 720-4623

Remarks-

by
Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy
on Telephone Hookup with
Selected Radio Broadcasters

April 14, 1993

Thanks for joining our broadcast today from USDA.

As we near our first 100 days in office -- I would like to give you a brief rundown on how we -- at USDA -- have tried to make this huge department move much faster than in the past -- while responding to the needs of the times.

As you know, before I had time to set my feet after the swearing-in ceremony on Jan. 22 -- families in the northwest were faced with the E.coli tragedy hitting their communities, threatening the food supply. I truly hope that our quick response to that terrible tragedy has helped quash fears about the safety of our food supply and has shown a true commitment to modernizing our pathogen reduction strategy by relying more on science and less on the senses -- sight, smell and touch. Our goal is to ensure a safe meat supply from the farm to the table through sound science.

Besides our pathogen reduction strategy, we have been quick to react to several other issues facing the producer and the consumer.

Here is a quick rundown:

--Just last week, we announced new assistance for corn producers whose harvests were of low quality due to natural disasters in 1992. The corn producers will be eligible for payments based on the low-quality of their crop, even though the quantity harvested would not usually qualify them for disaster assistance. We took this action just two weeks after being briefed about the problem by Michigan corn producers and the Michigan Congressional delegation.

--Also concerning corn -- we announced on Feb. 22 that we would end the "double discount" policy that penalizes corn farmers trying to obtain reduced loan rates for low test-weight corn. Until now, the USDA counted low test-weight against loan applications twice -- once for grade, partly based on test weight and again for test weight alone. This practice was unfair so we moved quickly to change old policy and make this program more farmer-friendly.

--A third example of the new spirit at USDA was our March 15 announcement to increase the Farmer-Owned Reserve from 600 million to 900 million bushels -- the highest quantity allowed by the FOR provisions. This move was in response to farmer fears that the 600-million bushel limit would have restricted the quantity they wished to place in the program.

--We have also moved quickly with decisions involving farm foreclosures. On March 5, we announced the suspension of FmHA foreclosure actions -- not yet referred to a court, pending review by an independent panel. We aim to treat every American farmer facing foreclosure fairly and equally under the law.

--One last announcement that I would like to recall today was the March 25 move to release \$455 million for rural housing loans ahead of schedule to meet demand and help boost the economy. These funds, which can help more than 30,000 people, were to be released in the third and fourth quarters -- but by making them available now -- we take advantage of the coming construction season and give the rural economy a quick lift at the same time.

Those are just a few examples of how we are changing the USDA. Many called this department a dinosaur during my confirmation hearing. I hope they can call it "The Modernized People's Department" once we have changed it. As you know, we are in the process of reorganizing from the top to the bottom and I want to ensure you that the changes will help us serve you -- rather than preserve bureaucracy.

For one final point -- I would like to add how important President Clinton's stimulus package is to rural America. I hope that once Congress returns -- the opposition to the package can see that by just opposing and not offering any alternatives -- they are holding hostage several important projects vital to rural America and America at-large. For just one example --the package includes the 160 new meat inspectors that President Clinton is committed to hiring.

We must not hold hostage an important project concerning the safety of our country's food supply.

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Release No. 0271.93
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USDA TO UPDATE PLANT GERMPLASM DATA BANK

WASHINGTON, April 12--A federal computer database containing over 400,000 entries of plant germplasm will be upgraded to speed its response to inquiries by plant breeders and scientists, a U.S. Department of Agriculture computer specialist said.

A more powerful, larger capacity computer and operating system for the Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN) will be ready by June 1994, said Jimmie D. Mowder. He is manager of the GRIN database, operated by USDA's Agricultural Research Service at its Beltsville, Md., research center.

"We are seeing a four-fold increase in requests, now coming from as many as 800 users a year, putting a strain on the six-year-old computer," he said.

Mowder said the use of GRIN is expected to continue increasing among plant scientists and breeders as well as companies investigating plants for potential sources of industrial products such as oils and for consumer uses such as increasing nutrients in food crops.

He said scientists and plant breeders rely on GRIN to track down plant genes responsible for improved quality, insect and disease resistance and heat or drought tolerance in crops.

On any given day, "we may have 40 scientists at one time searching for data in the network," he said. "It's not unusual for scientists to spend all day on the system."

Mowder said GRIN's data searches in the future will make it possible, in some cases, to do in minutes what used to take hours. He said the new system not only will be faster but also will increase GRIN's capacity for storing data from 22 sites that submit plant data.

As a new service to researchers, the GRIN office has started to provide floppy disks that contain selections of data for use in personal computers, he said.

"We developed a PC-based retrieval package we call PC GRIN," he said. Provided upon written request, PC GRIN will supply data to a scientist on personal computers without the need for a modem and phone line, he said.

"We can take segments of data out of GRIN, put this little package together and send that out to a researcher who doesn't have direct access to GRIN," he said. System requirements are: MS-DOS 3.0 or higher and a hard disk large enough to accommodate the requested data.

GRIN primarily catalogs and supplies information on plant germplasm that is collected worldwide and then evaluated and distributed by the National Plant Germplasm System that USDA's research agency operates.

Mowder said germplasm databases on other organisms such as microbes, animals and insects will be included once the new system is on-line.

As GRIN is switched to the new database, Mowder said, the staff and ARS scientists will continue to cooperate with agricultural research centers in other countries such as South Korea, Canada and India in setting up similar information systems for plant germplasm.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Jimmie D. Mowder, Database Management Unit, USDA, ARS, Beltsville, Md. 20705. Telephone (301) 504-5666.

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Release No. 0274.93
Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

STEVE KINSELLA NAMED AS PRESS SECRETARY AT USDA

Washington, April 13--Steve Kinsella has been named press secretary at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced today.

Previously, the duties of press secretary and public affairs director were the responsibility of one person. Those positions have since been separated and are now being held by two different individuals. On April 1 Espy named Ali Webb as USDA's director of public affairs.

In the post of press secretary Kinsella will serve as chief spokesperson for the secretary on agricultural issues, including farm programs, agricultural trade, environmental protection, rural development, agricultural research, food safety, and nutrition.

"Steve Kinsella brings in-depth experience to this Department," Espy said.

Before joining USDA, Kinsella had served as press secretary for U.S. Senator Tom Daschle (D-S.D.). A native of South Dakota, he has held a number of other positions with private and governmental organizations, including the National Farmers Union.

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Release No. 0277.93
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MAJOR PRIVATE GIFTS SIGNAL COMPLETION OF NATIONAL BONSAI AND PENJING MUSEUM

WASHINGTON, April 14--The National Bonsai Foundation and the United States Department of Agriculture announced today that the Foundation has received two major gifts--one from the Wu Yee Sun Charitable Trust, Ltd. of Hong Kong and the other from an anonymous donor--to finance completion of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum.

The museum is located at the U.S. National Arboretum, a 444-acre center in Washington, D.C., that works to improve trees, shrubs and ground covers that landscape streets, yards and gardens all over the United States.

Wu's gift of \$750,000 is for the Chinese Pavilion. The anonymous gift of \$500,000 is for the International Pavilion. These gifts amount to about half the total estimated cost of construction, all to be derived from private funds solicited by the foundation. Both donors expect their gifts to be matched by contributions from others.

The museum contains a collection of Japanese bonsai, a bicentennial gift from the people of Japan donated in 1976 by the Nippon Bonsai Association; a collection of Chinese bonsai (known as penjing) donated in 1986, most of them given by Wu and the remainder by Shu Ying Lui; and a collection of North American bonsai assembled in 1990 by the National Bonsai Foundation. The two new pavilions will complete the plan for the museum.

"When the museum is in full operation, visitors will be able to understand the nature of bonsai and to trace its development from its origins in China through its maturity in Japan to its current popularity in this country and abroad. Visitors also will be able to appreciate the influence of different cultures on this fascinating art," said Frederic L. Ballard, president of the foundation.

The National Bonsai Foundation, a private, non-profit organization, was established in 1982 to help the arboretum complete the museum through private support. The foundation funds capital improvements and assists in interpretive and educational activities through a cooperative trust agreement with USDA.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Kim Kaplan, USDA, ARS Information Office. Telephone (202) 720-2798, or Mary Ann Orlando, the National Bonsai Foundation, (202) 785-4847.

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Release No. 0278.93
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PUBLIC INPUT REQUESTED ON DRAFT MEDFLY PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

WASHINGTON, April 14--The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that a draft environmental impact statement of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly Cooperative Eradication Program is available for public review and comment.

"The draft environmental impact statement analyzes the potential environmental consequences of alternatives for Medfly control, including eradication, suppression and no action" said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator of the plant protection and quarantine program in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The analysis considers chemical and nonchemical strategies for Medfly control, and focuses on the possible environmental consequences of those control methods, Lee said.

The Medfly is one of the world's most destructive agricultural pests. It is found in most tropical and subtropical geographic areas outside the United States.

APHIS, in cooperation with 12 other federal and state organizations, prepared the draft environmental impact statement because of the possible future need to eradicate a Medfly infestation from the U.S. mainland.

Lee said if Medflies were allowed to become established in this country, producers would incur significant economic losses through export sanctions, treatment costs, reduced crop yields and premature fruit drop. These losses would be passed on to consumers.

Copies of the draft environmental impact statement are available upon written request or can be reviewed between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, at the following locations:

--APHIS Reading Room, Room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Ave, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

--USDA-APHIS Library, Room G-180 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

--USDA-APHIS-PPQ, 9580 Micron Avenue, Suite I, Sacramento, Calif. 95827.
 --USDA-APHIS-PPQ, 3505 Boca Chica Boulevard, Suite 360, Brownsville, Texas 78521.
 --USDA-APHIS-PPQ, 3505 25th Avenue, Building 1, North, Gulfport, Miss. 39501.
 --USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Blason II, 1st Floor, 505 South Lenola Road, Moorestown, N.J. 08057.

Notice of this action was published in the April 9 Federal Register. Comments will be accepted if they are received on or before May 24. An original and three copies of written comments, referring to docket number 90-108-3, should be sent to Harold T. Smith, Branch Chief, Environmental Analysis and Documentation, BBEP, APHIS, USDA, Room 543 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments received may be reviewed at the APHIS Reading Room. Persons wishing to review comments are encouraged to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry.

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Release No. 0280.93
 Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448
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U.S. TO DONATE WHEAT TO KYRGYZSTAN

WASHINGTON, April 14--The United States will donate about 55,000 metric tons of wheat to Kyrgyzstan, an independent republic of the former Soviet Union.

The \$10 million donation will include funds for related ocean transportation costs, according to Christopher E. Goldthwait, acting general sales manager of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The donation will be made under authority of USDA's Food for Progress program. Under this program, USDA provides commodities to needy countries to encourage agricultural reform.

The wheat will be purchased by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service using Public Law 480, Title I funds. The government of Kyrgyzstan will arrange ocean transportation.

The supply period for the donation is fiscal 1993.

For more information contact Jim Higgiston or Gina Castelnovo, FAS, at (202) 720-5319.

For operational details call (202) 690-3565.

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Release No. 0283.93
 Hank Becker (301) 344-2769
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FRUIT VIRUS OVERSEAS CAN'T HIDE FROM USDA SCIENTISTS

WASHINGTON, April 15--U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists say a new test for a hard-to-detect virus striking fruit trees overseas should cut the risk of the virus entering this country.

"Plum pox virus (PPV) can cause fruit of peaches, plums and apricots to drop prematurely from infected trees three to five weeks before they're ripe. More commonly, PPV-infected fruits are deformed, inedible, tasteless and unmarketable," said Laurene Levy.

Levy is a research associate working with plant pathologist Ahmed Hadidi in USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Her job in Hadidi's lab at the Beltsville, Md., Agricultural Research Center is to find new and better ways to detect PPV in quarantined stone fruit trees and to keep PPV from coming into the United States.

"If the virus should accidentally get into the United States, it would wreak havoc with the billion dollar stone fruit industry," Levy said. "In Europe and the Mediterranean region, it's the most devastating viral disease of fruit trees. It has damaged millions of trees."

"A major problem with detecting PPV is that often infected trees contain very small amounts of the virus," she said. "And it's frequently below the level that current methods can detect. Added to this, the virus can be unevenly distributed throughout the tree."

Levy and Hadidi overcame these obstacles by relying on the PPV's unique genomic fingerprint to develop a new diagnostic test.

"It's the most accurate test to date for pinpointing PPV and for distinguishing it from other viruses," Levy said.

Hadidi said the test solved a mystery of a phantom virus in stone fruit that evaded analysis at a Canadian quarantine station.

According to Hadidi, Bill Lanterman, director of Saanichton Plant Quarantine Station, Agriculture Canada in Victoria, British Columbia, contacted USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service asking for help in accurately identifying what the Canadians suspected was PPV in plant material under quarantine.

APHIS called Hadidi at the ARS National Germplasm Resources Laboratory at Beltsville, for help in identifying the infectious agent. Hadidi is a world expert on plant viruses and their detection.

When Hadidi and Levy tested plants from the Canadian quarantine station for PPV, using standard detection methods like ELISA and molecular hybridization, they found that most plants reacted positively for PPV.

"When we ran the new diagnostic test on these plants, only a few --all coming from Asia--tested positive for PPV," Hadidi said. He and Levy found that other plants were infected with a new virus provisionally named it *prunus-latent potyvirus* (PLV).

"As yet, we have no evidence that PLV produces disease in stone fruits," Levy said. She believes that the new test can be used worldwide to accurately identify PPV in plant material.

"This is very important," Hadidi said, "because we've always believed that PPV originated in Bulgaria. Where the virus truly originated is also of great importance in East Europe. We and the Europeans may have been overlooking PPV from Asia. Now, we can no longer assume plant material from Asia is not infected with the virus."

Although peaches, plums and apricots are most severely damaged, Levy said, strains of the virus that attack almonds and cherries are spreading. The virus is spread rapidly from infected trees by insects, like aphids.

According to Hadidi, about 180 viruses--about 36 percent of all known plant viruses--are called potyviruses. The name is short for potato virus Y. "Potyviruses make up the largest and most important group of crop diseases in the world," he said.

"Presently, in most countries, stone fruit seedlings and trees that react positively to PPV antiserum or molecular probes are then automatically destroyed," Levy said. "Some plants, perhaps, unnecessarily."

For the new detection method, Hadidi analyzed published scientific findings about PPV strains which have unique genetic information at the end of the virus' RNA strand.

"This unique end is like a fingerprint that distinguishes PPV strains from other potyviruses that do not affect stone fruit trees," he said. A technique called reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction amplifies PPV's unique end to make additional copies of the specific sequence. This produces enough material for quick and reliable molecular detection of PPV, he explained.

"This new detection method will help U.S. scientists keep this destructive virus from entering the country," he said.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Laurene Levy or Ahmed Hadidi, plant pathologists, National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md. Telephone (301) 504-5437/6460. Fax (301) 504-5435



Release No. 0284.93
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USDA ANNOUNCES 1993 CROP BURLEY TOBACCO PRICE SUPPORT

WASHINGTON, April 15--The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced a 1993 crop burley tobacco price support of \$1.683 per pound and a marketing assessment of 1.683 cents per pound which is to be shared equally by both producers and purchasers of the 1993 crop of burley tobacco.

The crop was computed using a formula which reflects changes in the five-year moving averages of market prices and the previous year's cost-of-production index. The price support for the 1993 crop is 3.4 cents more than the 1992 crop.

The marketing assessment is imposed in accordance with an amendment made to the Agricultural Act of 1949 by the 1990 farm bill. This amendment provides that growers and buyers each pay an assessment on sales equal to 0.5 percent of the price support to achieve an equal reduction in outlays by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation will establish individual grade loan rates and no-net-cost assessments before the marketing season begins. #

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Release No. 0286.93
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TECHNIQUE REDUCES CHEMICAL USE IN FOOD ANALYSIS

WASHINGTON, April 16--A process used to decaffeinate coffee can also help detect chemical residues in food in a fraction of the time and money now required, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist said.

Chemist Jerry W. King said the carbon dioxide-based process also will be an answer for federal labs scheduled to limit use or phase out chemical solvents for food analysis.

Carbon dioxide is held at selected pressures and temperatures to extract substances from food samples, explained King of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. In addition to decaffeinating coffee, the food industry uses the process--called supercritical fluid extraction--to extract beer hops and perform other processing tasks.

Supercritical fluid extraction does not harm the environment and would reduce the use of chemical solvents in food analysis by regulatory agencies such as USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, King said.

The Environmental Protection Agency has mandated a 50 percent reduction in the use of 17 specific chemical solvents in all federally owned and contractor-operated labs by 1995. All other federal facilities must cut their use of these chemicals by one-third by 1995.

Current procedures that use ether or hexane to extract residues in food can take three to five hours. By comparison, King and his coworkers have shown in lab tests that SFE can provide comparable results in 30 minutes.

One of King's collaborators, Marvin Hopper of the Food and Drug Administration's Total Diet Research Center in Kansas City, has estimated that extraction chemical solvent costs for analysis are about \$3 per sample for non-fat foods like vegetables and about \$1.50 per sample for fatty foods. Hopper notes that recent studies have shown that the use of SFE costs about 95 cents per sample.

"Tests with chemical solvents haven't been very effective on low-fat foods," said Richard Ellis, director of FSIS' chemistry division in Washington, D.C.

"We've targeted for elimination five chemicals--chloroform, dichloromethane, mercury, toluene, and xylene--that we routinely use in our laboratories," said Ellis. "We're interested in SFE as an alternative method."

In 1991, FSIS asked ARS to develop an SFE instrument that could analyze multiple samples at one time. The development of such an instrument is important because FSIS is responsible for checking processed meat and poultry products.

ARS engineering technician Jim Johnson helped build an instrument capable of processing six samples simultaneously. Both Johnson and King work at ARS' National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research at Peoria, Ill.

ARS shipped the unit to FSIS' Western Laboratory at Alameda, Calif., where Johnson installed it and trained FSIS personnel in its operation.

Paul Smith, director of the FSIS lab at Alameda, said the instrument built by ARS will allow FSIS chemists to check for pesticides in low-fat meat products. "Our laboratory also plans to test the unit for extracting antibiotics from animal tissue," he said.

Smith noted that the state of California has been attempting to reduce the amount of hazardous wastes that are emitted into the environment. FSIS currently recycles chemicals to save money on purchasing new supplies, and the agency hopes to be able to convert to supercritical fluid extraction to address environmental problems.

King and Hopper have patented a processing aid for analysis of moist foods using SFE. Their process uses an adsorbent to trap water and moisture from the fat-laden food samples, thereby eliminating the need for time-consuming oven drying.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Jerry W. King, USDA, ARS, National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, 1815 N. University Street, Peoria, Ill. 61604. Telephone: (309) 685-4011.

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Release No. 0287.93

Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448

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U.S. TO DONATE WHEAT TO REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

WASHINGTON, April 16--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today announced the United States will donate about 150,000 metric tons wheat to Georgia, an independent republic of the former Soviet Union.

Of the total, 94,000 tons valued at \$14 million will be wheat for human consumption. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will finance ocean transportation costs valued at \$3 million.

In a separate donation, USDA will provide 55,000 tons of feed wheat valued at \$5 million. USDA will finance ocean transportation costs valued at \$2 million.

"These agreements will help Georgia meet its food and animal feed needs," Espy said. "The United States continues to demonstrate its commitment as Georgia and the other republics make the transition to market economies."

The 94,000 tons of wheat for human food will be donated under the authority of USDA's Food for Progress program. Under this program, USDA provides commodities to needy countries to encourage agricultural reform. The wheat will be purchased by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service using Public 480, Title I funds. The government of Georgia will arrange ocean transportation.

The 55,000 tons of feed wheat will be provided to the government of Georgia to help meet the critical need for animal feed, Espy said. The wheat will be mixed with local feed and sold to private and public livestock and poultry producers.

Proceeds from the sales will be used to improve health and nutrition programs for needy people, and to make low interest rate loans available to private and family farms, agricultural cooperatives, farmer associations and small agribusiness enterprises.

The feed wheat will be donated under the authority of Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to developing countries.

The supply period for both donations is fiscal 1993.

Questions about the donation of wheat for human consumption can be directed to Jim Higgiston or Marc Mealy, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, at (202) 720-5319. Questions about the feed wheat donation can be directed to James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 720-5263.

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Release No. 0288.93
 Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448
 Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

U.S. DONATES BUTTEROIL TO RUSSIA

WASHINGTON, April 16--The United States will donate 1,000 metric tons of U.S. butteroil for distribution to needy citizens in the Russian Federation, according to Christopher E. Goldthwait, acting general sales manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The total value of the donation is about \$2 million, including \$1.8 million worth of butteroil and \$200,000 in freight costs. USDA will pay for ocean and inland transportation to distribution sites.

The Brother's Brother Foundation, a private U.S. voluntary organization, will distribute the butteroil free of charge to social service institutions such as hospitals, orphanages, schools, and homes for the elderly and the handicapped in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The donation will be made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to developing countries. The program is administered by FAS.

The supply period of the donation is fiscal 1993.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS (202) 720-5263.

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Program Announcement-

Release No. 0276.93
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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES, MARKETING CERTIFICATE RATES

WASHINGTON, April 13--Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Charles J. O'Mara today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

--long grain whole kernels:	7.50 cents per pound
--medium grain whole kernels:	6.76 cents per pound
--short grain whole kernels:	6.75 cents per pound
--broken kernels:	3.75 cents per pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

	Loan Gain and LDP Rate	Marketing Certificate Rate
\$Cwt.....	
--for long grain:	\$2.03	\$0.01
--for medium grain:	\$1.84	\$0.04
--for short grain:	\$1.84	\$0.04

These announced prices and rates are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made April 20, at 3 p.m. EDT.

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Release No. 0285.93
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Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, April 15--Tom VonGarlem, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, April 22. The user marketing certificate payment rate announced today is in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, April 16 through midnight Thursday, April 22.

This period represents Week 1 of the 6-week transition period from using current shipment prices to using forward shipment prices in the AWP calculation. The procedure was adopted to avoid a dramatic change in the AWP that could occur with no transition period, due to differences between new and old crop price quotes. This procedure is also used to calculate the U.S. Northern Europe (USNE) price for the purpose of determining the maximum allowable adjustment to the AWP under the Step 1 provision.

For Weeks 1 and 2, the Northern Europe (NE) price = [(2 x NE current price) + (NE forward price)]/3. The NE coarse count price = [(2 x NE coarse count current price) + (NE coarse count forward price)]/3. The USNE price = [(2 x USNE current price) + (USNE forward price)]/3.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the NE price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 91 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 4.72 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I. Calculated AWP	47.63 cents per pound
1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	91
II. USNE Price	66.03 cents per pound
NE Price	<u>-61.31</u> cents per pound
Maximum Adjustment Allowed	4.72 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	61.31
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55
Average U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	<u>- 13.68</u>
Calculated AWP	47.63
Further AWP adjustment	<u>- 0</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	47.63 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	61.31
NE Coarse Count Price	<u>- 58.44</u>
	2.87
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	<u>- 3.95</u>
	<u>- 1.08</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT.....	0 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

This week is the third week of the 3-week spring transition period during which consecutive 4-week Friday-through-Thursday periods contain a combination of NE price quotations only for 1 to 3 weeks and both NE current shipment prices and NE forward shipment prices only for 1 to 3 weeks. During this spring transition period, the user marketing certificate payment rate is based on the difference in the fourth week between the USNE current price and the NE current price, minus 1.25 cents. The payment is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to Sept. 30.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 1.80 cents per pound. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	Period Ending	For the		User	
		Friday through		USNE	Certificate
		Thursday	Price		
Week	Period Ending	USNE	NE	Minus	Payment
		Price	Price	NE	Rate 1/
		cents per pound	
1	Mar. 25, 1993	63.20	61.08	2.12	0.87
2	Apr. 1, 1993	63.25 (c)	60.85 (c)	2.40	1.15
3	Apr. 8, 1993	63.85 (c)	61.00 (c)	2.85	1.60
4	Apr. 15, 1993	64.08 (c)	61.03 (c)	3.05	1.80

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

(c) Based on current price quotations.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rate will be announced on Thursday, April 22.

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Media Advisory-

Release No. 0272.93
Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091

DIRECTORIES OF EXPORT ELEVATORS AND FIRMS AVAILABLE

WASHINGTON, April 12--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service today released two catalogues of businesses involved in the export of U.S. grain: the Export Elevator Directory and the Directory of Firms Registered to Export Grain.

The Export Elevator Directory lists major elevators from which U.S. grain is exported and where official grain inspection and weighing services are provided.

The Directory of Firms Registered to Export Grain includes entities or individuals who buy, handle, weigh, or transport grain in excess of 15,000 metric tons for sale in foreign commerce.

Both reports are printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

For copies, call (202) 720-8262.

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Release No. 0282.93
Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222

USDA SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETING ON VETERINARY BIOLOGICS FOR AUG. 10-11

WASHINGTON, April 15--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will hold a meeting to discuss regulatory and policy issues related to quality control of veterinary biologics on Aug. 10 and 11, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., both days, at the Scheman Building, Iowa State Center, Ames, Iowa.

Topics include program updates, Good Laboratory Practice considerations, biotechnology issues, in-vitro testing, international issues and duration of immunity.

Interested persons may send suggestions on other topics to Dr. Frank Tang, BBEP, APHIS, USDA, 846 Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782 until May 13.

A notice announcing the meeting was published in the April 13 Federal Register.

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